A TRVE DECLARATION OF the News that came out of the East-Indies, *with the Pinace called the* HARE, which arriued in TEXEL, in Iune 1624.

CONCERNING

A Conſpiracy diſcouered in the Iland of *Amboyna*, and the puniſhment following thereupon, according to the courſe of juſtice, in *March* 1624. comprehended in a Letter miſsiue;

AND SENT

From a friend in the Low-Countries, to a friend of note in England, for information of him in the truth of thoſe paſſages.

Printed, *Anno* 1624.

Right worſhipfull and worthy Sir,

THe great outcryes which haue beene made in England, *vpon the laſt newes which came out of the* Eaſt-Indies,*about a certayne execution which was done in the Iland of* Amboyna, *in* March, 1623. *becauſe we ſee the great deſire that your Worſhip hath, to keep good correſpondence betwixt theſe* two Nations, *it hath cauſed me (beyond my owne curioſity) to ſearch & inquire after the right & true beginnings, procedings, and iſſues of theſe affaires, vpon which this execution followed. Wherein, I perſwade my ſelfe, I haue attained good ſucceſſe, by ſuch meanes as I haue vſed, and by my good acquaintance, ſo that (at the laſt) I am come to the cleare light of the matter: partly by the letters that haue beene ſent home, to the* Company *here, and declared to the* States Generall, *as alſo by a particular examination of the proceſſe made againſt them in* Amboyna, *before their execution, and ſent ouer hither, in writing, which at this preſent hath cauſed mee to write this vnto your* Worſhip, *that ſo, the truth may bee made knowne concerning this buſines in all places, where your Worthynes, and reſpect, can, or may bring it to paſſe; that ſo your* Worſhip, *and all true well willers (of our Countrey,) may be no otherwiſe thought of than wee deſerue.*

THe very cauſes and beginnings
through which, the *Gouernour*,
and *Councell*, eſtabliſhed in the
name of the Vnited *Netherlands*
in *Amboyna*, came into ſuſpicion,
that ſome thing was plotted a-
gainſt that Prouince; did firſt
flow from the great licentiouſnes of the *Ternatanes*
in *Moluque*, and *Amboyna*: Who, contrary to the con-
tract of alliance, 1606. made with the High and A
Mighty Lords the States, attempted (without our
conſent, and knowledge) to make peace with the
King of *Tedore*; as alſo truce with the *Spaniards*,
(their and our ancient aduerſaries) by which, the B
ſaid *Ternatanes* had too much caſt off all reſpect
which they, both in regard of our confederacy, and
manifold aſsiſtance, did owe to this State. The *Spa-*
niard alſo was maſter enough at ſea, in the *Moluque*, C
becauſe the *Engliſh Marchants* there, in the *Eaſt-In-*
dies, were vnwilling to furniſh vs with ſhips of warre,
toward the common defence; as they were bound to
doe, according to the treaties 1619. to the number
of ten. Through which, the voyages to *Manillia*,
comming to ceaſe, the enemy traded there, without
any interruption, & procured power to ſend *Gallyes*,
Ships, and Pynaſſes to the *Moluque*, with great ſuc-
cours of people, and prouiſion; and that becauſe,
againſt the ſame (through the default of the *Engliſh*
Merchants) there were no Ships of warre kept, as
there ſhould haue beene.

The ſubiects of the King of *Ternata*, begun to
commit great inſolencies (otherwiſe than they D
were

were wont) against our Nation, hauing outrageously assaulted diuers of vs, diuers wayes, and also slayne some, and wee notwithstanding could not obtayne any punishment vpon them. And as one outrage (vnpunished) prouokes many moe, through hope of the like impunity, or other considerations; so likewise the sayd *Ternatans* of *Amboyna*, dwelling at *Loho*, *Cambello*, and those neere adioyning places, proceeded further, and haue armed themselues at Sea, and inuaded diuers Ilands, and places standing vnder the *Netherlands Gouernour* in *Amboyna*, spoyling them, and killing our subiects, and taking others, and carrying them away for slaues. And notwitstanding the instant request of the *Netherlands Gouernour*, no satisfaction, or iustice, hath followed; but the said *Ternatanes* are yet gone further, and openly threatned to murder the *Dutch Marchants*, and to spoyle and burne the *Logie*, or *Factory*, which our people haue many yeares there enioyed: so that our Merchants haue taken out the *Dutch* goods, to auoid damage: And the *Ternatanes* at *Loho* did actually set on fire, and ruined the said *Netherlands Factory*. In the *Manichells* (an Iland being vnder the Prouince of *Amboyna*) they haue in like manner, shortly after, burned the *Netherlands Logie*, with the losse of all the goods therein. The *Netherlands Gouernour*, that by his presence, and authority, hee might cause such rebellions to cease, and to giue order for time to come, and also to seeke satisfaction and punishment vpon the foresaid insolencies; went toward *Loho*, with a small power of sloopes: and comming there-about, was

was mett (otherwiſe than was wont) by a nauy of ſloopes of the *Ternatanes* of *Loho*, ſtronger than his were. Theſe (by their conference) gaue him well to knowe, how little reuerence they gaue the *Dutch Gouernor* : they braued him, without hope of reſtitution of any thing to come : ſo that (nothing done) he was faine to returne to his Caſtle of *Amboyna*. By reaſon of theſe things, the ſayd *Ternatanes* became ſo ſtout and daring, that they gaue out openly, that they would come, and ſpoile our ſubiects by a generall army, with aboue a 100. *Friggets* : with theſe, they ſaid they would come againſt *Amboyna*, to make a vniuerſall ſpoile of our people; Through which, there came a great feare vpon the *Indians*, ſtanding vnder the ſubiection of the High and Mighty Lords the States, as alſo ouer the *Netherlanders*.

In the Ilands lying farre Eaſtward of *Banda*, it E
was alſo ſaid, and the newes went currantly there, That the *Hollanders* were ſure enough quit of the Caſtle of *Amboyna*; And at that time there were diuers ſecret correſpondencies betweene the *Indians*, and others, which gaue vs great ſuſpicion. By this meanes the *Netherlands Gouernour*, & Councell of *Amboyna*, were moued to haue ſpeciall regard, and looke narrowly vnto all things, ſeeing that it might bee thence clearly gathered, that ſomething might bee plotted againſt the State in *Amboyna*, and that the *Indians* (of themſelues) durſt not offer to vndertake any ſuch great deſigne , without ſome
great helpe of ſome of *Europe*, either of *Spaniards*, F
Portugalls, or ſome others; and alſo they vnderſtood,

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that they of *Loho*, *Cambello*, &c. had great ſecret correſpondence with the *Engliſh* Merchants. When things were in ſuch a ſtate in *Amboyna*, there came forth, and was wonderfully diſcouered, in February 1623. a horrible conſpiracie, againſt the Caſtle, and Perſon of the *Dutch Gournour*, and the whole ſtate of *Amboyna*: and firſt, by the apprehenſion of a certaine *Iaponian* (a complice of the feate) who at an vnſeaſonable time was often ſeene vpon the wall of the Caſtle, where he alſo ouer-curiouſly enquired of the moſt vnskilfull and ſillyeſt ſouldiers, touching, the ſetting, and change of the *Watch*, and what number of people might bee in the Caſtle, and many other things. Whereupon, in the very act, the ſaid *Iaponian* was apprehended, and being examined of many circumſtances, hee confeſſed, that the *Iaponian* ſouldiers, vnder our ſeruice, had decreed to make themſelues Maſters of the Caſtle, and that they ſhould haue ſet vpon this by the helpe of the *Engliſh*, who had ſollicited them vnto it; and that hee, with all the other *Iaponians* in the *Engliſh* houſe, oftentimes within three moneths before-going, had conferred with the *Engliſh* (whome he there named, by their names) touching the manner, whereby they ſhould bring this treachery to paſſe. Hereupon it came to paſſe, that all the Iaponian ſouldiers which were in our ſeruice, were diſarmed, and impriſoned, and by examination of them all, it appeared playnly, by an orderly and ioynt-confeſsion, that all the ſaid Iaponians, vpon the intreaty of *Gabriel Towerſon*, and other *Engliſh* Merchants, and Offſcers, agreed to aſsiſt the ſaid Engliſh to betray the Caſtle, and to

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giue it ouer into the Engliſh Power; and that *Gabriel Towerſon*, and *Abel Price*(an Engliſh Chirurgion)and other Engliſh, dealt often with them,(whom hee named by their names) of the way and meanes, how they ſhould worke it; the ſaid *Abel Price* being before impriſoned for a foule and execrable fact, and yet remayning in durance.

And although it appeared ſufficiently to the Gouernour,and Councel of *Amboyna*,out of the confeſsion of the Iaponians,what the ſaid *Gabriel Towerſon* with his Merchants, and other complices, had before reſolued to do, and that the Councell had ſufficient information to impriſon them all; yet the *Generall Councell* would not precipitate, but commanded the ſaid *Abel Price*,(who was in priſon) to come before the Councell, and (after the places, perſons, and time nominated to him, where, and when hee had dealt with the *Iaponians*,and other Engliſh,about the ſaid treachery) it was alſo from him well vnderſtood, how hee (in the name, and by the command of *Gabriel Towerſon*) and another Iaponian, (who was then alſo in priſon) had perſwaded all the Iaponians to conſent to this villany, and that conſequently the ſaid *Towerſon*,as the *firſt Authour*,and all the other Engliſh Merchants,(being in the *Forraigne Cantore* of the Prouince of *Amboyna*) had alſo knowledge of the ſaid treachery.

Vpon this full and vniforme examination,and confeſsion of 12. perſons, as well of the 11.Iaponians,as one Engliſh, is the ſaid *Gabriel Towerſon* called to the Councell; and there appearing, the ſaid *Towerſon* called together all his people vnto the Caſtle, vpon

the request of the *Generall Councell,* who were there taken, and impriſoned, except the ſaid *Gabriel Towerſon* himſelfe: to whom (vpon his requeſt) and in regard of his quality, being chiefe merchant in *Amboyna*, in the name of the *Engliſh Company*; his owne houſe was allotted him for his ſafe keeping, and forth comming. And the ſaid priſoners were all lawfully and orderly examined, and it appeared by them ioyntly, according to their owne confeſsion (euery one hauing vnderwritten it with his owne hand) as followeth.

H Gabriel Towerſon, about *New-yeares day* 1623. hauing with him almoſt all the *Engliſh* Merchants of the *Forraigne Cantore* in *Amboyna*, he aſſembled them in his chamber, and propounded to them, that he had ſomething of *great moment*, to impart vnto them, (which *hee alone* could not effect) vnder the fidelity of an *oath* to bee taken *before*, for the keeping ſecret thereof, and being truſty therein; ſaying, It is neceſſary ſo to bee; for if the thing ſhould come abroad, which I ſhall make knowne vnto you, it will coſt all our liues. Whereupon the holy *Goſpell* was produced; vpon which, euery one who was preſent, did ſweare ſecrecy and fidelity, as was required. Then *Towerſon* (after a *preface*) opened to the conſpirators, how hee had a way and meanes to make himſelf *Maſter* of the *Caſtle* of *Amboyna*. And wheras ſome preſent made it difficult to doe, being too
I weake for it: the ſaid *Towerſon* anſwered, That hee had already won to his purpoſe the *Iaponian* ſouldiers who were in the Caſtle, and that they ſhould execute his purpoſe when the *Dutch*, who were in the

the Caſtle, were in their greateſt weakeneſſe, and worſt prouided, or (*vnawares)* when the *Gouernour* ſhould bee abſent, about ſome exploit; and that they ſhould waite till ſome *Engliſh* ſhips, or ſhip, were in *Amboyna*, whoſe people hee might employ in this attempt; as alſo, when as all other the *Engliſh* Merchants, and ſlaues of the *Forraigne Cantore* in *Amboyna*, ſhould be ſent for to the Caſtle: And ſaid further, That hee knew how to get men enow, and they ſhould leaue this to his care, and themſelues do their beſt; and that they of *Loho* ſhould alſo come to helpe him with certaine *Curricurries, &c.* vpon which inducements, all that were preſent ſwore to aſsiſt *Towerſon* herein. And concerning the maner of execution, the ſaid *Towerſon* had preſcribed to the *Iaponians*, which were in the Caſtle, that they ſhould ſend to euery point of the Bulwarkes, two men, and the reſt in the court attend the *Gouernour*, and to murder him; and that at the ſigne which ſhould be giuen by the *Engliſh*, they ſhould make themſelues *Maſters* of euery point of the bulwarke, and kill all who ſhould reſiſt, and impriſon the reſt; and further ſhould take, and diuide betweene themſelues, and the *Iaponians*, the goods of the *Dutch Eaſt-India Company*, except a 1000. rialls of 8. which euery *Iaponian* ſhould haue before, and that they ſhould kill the citizens who would not conſent with them, and do them all the miſchiefe they could. And touching the time, hee had not yet certainely ſet it, but that there ſhould ſuddenly bee another aſſembly of the conſpirators, when *Gabriel Towerſon* would giue order for all things, and giue a ſigne to the *Ia-*

ponians, whereupon, when they ſhewed it, they ſhould begin the worke within.

L The ſaid *Gabriel Towerſon* being asked in particular, what moued him to ſuch a wicked fact; hee anſwered, The deſire of *Honour* and *Profit*. Being further demanded, who ſhould enioy that Honour and Profit, and for whome hee would haue taken the Caſtle: he anſwered, That if he did obtaine his deſire, hee ſhould preſently haue aduertiſed thoſe of his Nation being in *Batauia*, and called for their helpe, who if they had ſent him ſuccour, hee would haue kept the Caſtle for his owne company (viz. for the *English Eaſt-Indian Company*) and if not, he would haue held it for himſelfe, and haue endeuoured a peace with the Indians, that ſo by the one meanes or the other, hee might attayne his purpoſe.

M After the examination of *Towerſon* was ended, the *Dutch Gouernour* in *Amboyna* vpbrayded *Towerſon* of his cruell intent, and asked, if this ſhould haue beene the recompence of the manifold honours, and kindneſſes hee had done vnto him. Whereto *Towerſon* anſwered with a deepe ſigh, *Oh*, if it were to bee begun, it ſhould not bee done. This voluntary confeſſion, and penitent acknowledgement, with much ſorrow, was made the 9. of March, being the day when the execution ſhould haue beene done; but the examination of *Towerſon* was ended the 18. of February, ſo many dayes before. This is the ſubſtance of the confeſſions of 10. Iaponians, of 14. Engliſh, and of a *Neatherlandiſh Merinho*, or *Captaine* of the *Slaues*; who all confirmed theſe their confeſſions with their owne hands.

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What crime this intended prodition was, is hence very manifeſt, and vndoubted: what puniſhment is due to treachery, according to the law and cuſtomes of all nations, is alſo well knowne: no true Chriſtian man will patronage any ſuch horrible attempt, but will adiudge it worthy of death, as it was determined vpon the complices of this conſpiracy, according to order of iuſtice, as there in *Amboyna* it is exerciſed (according to deſert) by the Gouernour and Councell, in the name of the *High* and *Mighty Lords*, the *States*.

Here you haue (Sir) the very ſubſtance of the truth, both of the fact and puniſhment; other than which, many things are ſpread abroad in England, but vpon what pretence, or intendement, I know not; let the matter it ſelfe ſpeake for it ſelfe:

The firſt point, which is obiected againſt this iuſtice done in *Amboyna*, is concerning the proceedings; which are ſaid to bee holden without formality, and with extreamity, againſt theſe conſpirators: Your Worſhip (and each reaſonable man) knoweth, that euery land hath their lawes, and ordinances, and their particular manner of proceedings, as well in Ciuill as in Criminall cauſes. *England* hath hers. *France, Spaine, Dutchland, Netherland,* and all other *Kingdomes* and *Gouernments* haue alſo theirs, which are iuſt & lawfull to euery one in their dominion; ſo that, when any man will iudge of the equity or iniuſtice of a proceeding vſed in any land, he muſt examine the ſame according to the lawes and cuſtomes of that Kingdom or dominion, where the iuſtice and proceedings were holden. Theſe proceedings

Obiect. 1.

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dings were holden by the *Netherlandish Gouernor*, in the name of the illustrious *Lords the States*, hauing supreame power, many yeares since in the *Yles* of *Amboyna*, which were conquered (in the name of the said *Lords* the *States*) from the *Spaniards*, or *Portugalls*, who held that Castle in the name of the King of *Spaine*, our hereditary enemy ; therefore they are now possessed in the name of the *Lords* the *States*, and are vnder their dominion, by a iust and lawfull title of warre, according to the law of *Nations*. There (among other things) iustice is administred according to the lawes of the *Netherlands* , in that manner as was vsed in the proceedings against these conspirators. I know that the lawes of *England* are diuers from ours in *criminall* cases, yea, & from all the Nations in *Europe*: howbeit therefore, no man hath any ground of reason to say, that the proceedings of the *English Iudges* (holden in *England*) against delinquents, are not legitimate, though the said *English* proceedings doe vary in the manner from the proceedings of *France, Spayne* &c. where other customes are: for that is lawful, which agreeth with the lawes of that land where the fact is committed. Now then the *Iaponian* souldiers, being in the seruice of the *Netherlands* Company in *Amboyna*, are discouered to haue conspired against the Castle and the *Gouernment* there, vnder whose oath & pay they were; they were apprehended, and examined, and conuicted of the said conspiracy. This proceeding is lawfull, and toucheth no man, because the said *Iaponians* knew no other *Master* than the *Netherlanders*, vnder whose oath, seruice, and pay they stand.

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All theſe *Iaponian* conſpirators with the ſaid *Merincho*, a *Captayne* of the *Netherlands* Slaues, confeſſed with one mouth,that they were moued and induced to this conſpiracy,by the *Engliſh* Merchants reſident in *Amboyna*, whoſe names they named. Now,not only the right of *Netherland*, but of *England*, and of the whole world requireth, that the authors, abettors & complices of murther and treaſon, ſhould bee puniſhed with death; whereto, according to the common lawes, as alſo the particular lawes of euery Kingdome or Dominion, the ſuſpected perſons firſt, and before all, ſhould bee impriſoned, not only for preuenting the effect of their euill purpoſe, but that they might alſo receiue their deſerued puniſhment: which apprehenſious, could not (*in that place*) bee done by any other man, than by the command of the *Netherlands Gouernor*, to whom it belongeth to take care, to ſee euery act concerning ſupreame power,to be there obſerued;& ſpecially(al other rea- O
ſons ceaſing)the higheſt *Engliſh Officers* there,could not apprehend theſe *Engliſh* conſpirators, becauſe all the chiefe of the *Engliſh* Merchants in *Amboyna* were themſelues of the conſpiracy, and complices of the fact, vpon which the apprehenſion was made. Therefore the apprehenſion of the *Engliſh* complices, muſt bee done by the *Dutch Gouernour*, who therefore hath therein proceeded according to the cuſtome of all Nations of the world. And P
that theſe apprehenſions may bee holden more lawfull, it appeareth out of the written proceſſe, that the ſaid *Engliſh* complices were not impriſoned vpon the firſt ſuſpitions and groſſe euidences, which

were had against them, but then at last, when all the *Iaponian* souldiers were taken, examined, and conuicted, and had discouered by the vniforme confession of all the 11. the names and sur-names of such *English* as had perswaded and hyred them to this fact; of which *English*, one (viz. *Abel Price*, Barber) was before apprehended (as an *Incendiary*) for burning and violence done vpon other houses, who also was first examined, and first confessed (as the other 11. *Iaponians*) that he (by name, *Gabriel Towerson*) and other *English Marchants*, whom hee named by their names, had suborned the said *Iaponian* souldiers; and that all the *English Marchants* in the *Forraigne Cantores* in *Amboyna*, had knowledge of this conspiracy, &c. So that it may bee seene, out of that which went before, that the *Dutch Gouernour* dealt no otherwise in the apprehension, & examination of the *English*, than according to his place, and power, and that with great discretion, according to the lawes of these *Vnited Prouinces*.

Obiect. 2. The second point which is abusiuely dispersed in *England*, against this execution, is, that it is said, that it did not appertain to the *Netherlanders* in *Amboyna* to imprison the said *English*, and to proceede against them, or to punish them; but that it did belong to the *Councell of defence* resident at *Iaquetra*, consisting half of *English*, & half of *Netherlanders*, according to the treaty of the yeare 1619. made betweene his *Maiesty* and the *Lords* the *States*, betweene the two *East-India Companyes*. That I might the better informe my selfe thereof, I tooke in hand, and perused the *generall* treaty of 1619. with the explication following thervpon;

vpon ; but I professe, that (as I thinke) euery vnderstanding man,(not louing discord)must confesse,that neither in the said treaty, nor in the enlargement, any one article or word could be perceiued,wherby (according to that which is vntruely said in *England*) either this, or any such thing is ordayned,or decided, by the said treaty ; as it ought to haue clearely beene in so great and important a point, as this part of iurisdiction is. I appeale to all wise men, who I desire may iudge of this, whether this speech of some in *England*(to wit, that the said Councell of defence should (alone) haue iudged these conspirators) bee agreable to the said treaty, or contrary to the same. I finde many arguments for my negatiue opinion, to wit, that before the treaty of *1619*. the *Dutch* in *Amboyna* administred iurisdiction, and iudicature, vpon all and euery one who dwelt in or vnder the iurisdiction of the Castle, as well inhabitants as strangers, without difference ; and that in this said treaty, the *Dutch*, with the *English Merchants*, made onely a league in the matter of commerce and negotiation of *Nutmegs*,*Mace*,*Cloues*, and *Pepper*, in some quarters,without hauing any further treaty, or communication in the land ; so that without the bounds of this common negotiation, euery one remained free, and vn-hyndered in the land, by the right and possession which either Company enioyed and exercised seuerally ; according as the same appeareth out of the 23. article of the treaty: where it is expresly said ; *That Castles and Forts shall remayne* in their hands who at present doe possesse them : And out of the 13.14.15. articles of the trea-

ty, all may see, that this common Councell of *Defence* hath no more power, saue onely ouer the fellowship of the treaty, that is, ouer the Nauy of defence in the Sea, to the defence of the common Merchandize, and liberty of commerce; and lastly, to taxe the charges for the prouision of munition in the Forts: neither can any other thing be sincerely collected out of the said treaty, so farre as I can conceiue. Therefore this second point is found to be vntrue and abusiue, being not founded vpon the said treaty, which treaty (notwithstanding) ought to bee the onely rule, both of the one and the other Company.

R Finally, it is giuen out in *England*, that in the examination of the Conspirators there was excesse in the *Netherlands* Iudges, in the point of *Torture*. I acknowledge, that no argument or pretext against the iustice of this execution, hath more mooued mee in the beginning, than this pretence of excesse aforesaid, because this stirreth Christian compassion; although I also iudge, that wise men will not suffer themselues to bee too much transported thereby, before the true reasons doe fully appeare, which should moue vs thereunto. For, I well remember yet, that in the time of former mistakings in the *Indyes*, many things were pretended on both parts, vpon which, there were great outcries on either side, which yet, by due examination, were found to be (though faire, yet) false pretexts of some ill-willers, and men desirous to wrangle: which pretences being throughly sifted by the High and much admired wisdome of his *Maiesty*, and the *Lords* the

States,

States, were well difcouered to be no fuch matters as they were made: as it is alfo vndoubtedly to be beleeued, that his *Maieſty*, and the *States* will yet further doe in this affaire; and fo the caufe of the *Dutch* Company may bee (in the carriage hereof) rightly iuftified. Of which I vnderftand that the *Lords* the *States* haue fpeciall regard, and that they haue beene throughly informed, what is the very truth of the things there paft, and of the execution in *Amboyna* vpon the *Engliſh* Confpirators. Vnto which end the *Lords* the *States* refolued to fee and perufe all the papers and letters, touching the faid proceedings: And now thereupon men fpeake farre otherwife than heretofore; for pretences and cauills (being once detected) cannot ftand with truth. And it doth plainly appeare, that there is little truth in the matter of torture, reported to bee moft cruelly inflicted vpon thefe *Engliſh* Confpirators, as in *England* it is faid. And I haue euer fufpected this for a flander: for I know the *Dutch* Nation doth naturally abhorre this kinde of cruelty, and are as much mooued to commiferation, as any other people. But whether thefe euill minded men, who haue fcattered this great flander in *England*, and haue fo fowly defaced a iuft caufe, haue done it by occafion of our vfe of tortures in thefe lands, in fome weighty caufes, according to the cuftome of the moft dominions of *Europe*; I cannot iudge. But is that to bee cenfured and iudged to bee vniuft of the whole world, which is repugnant to the lawes of *England*, (or any one Nation) where torture is rarely vfed? Nothing fo; but the iuftice or iniuftice of a caufe,

muſt bee (as aforeſaid) determined, according to the lawes where it is done, and not of other lands. If this were not ſo, why then ſhould not the whole world much more iudge that as a hard, and a thing vnheard,(and therfore condemnable) which in ſome caſes is vſed in *England*, according to the lawes there, when they proceed againſt ſome guilty perſon; who being once and againe asked of the Iudge, and vtterly refuſing to bee legally tried, is adiudged as dumbe, that is, by contumacy; whoſe condemnation then accordingly followeth, That hee is laid vpon a table, or planke, and another planke vpon him, and ſo much weight of ſtone or lead laid vpon him, that his body is miſerably bruiſed, and ſo preſſed violently to death. The which, according to the confeſsion of all nations, (eſpecially, becauſe this kinde of iuſtice is not vſed in other lands) and by the *Engliſh* writers, is iudged to bee one of the moſt ſharpe and ſeuere kindes of death, that can be inuented; yet cannot ſuch an execution bee called cruell and vnlawfull when it is done in *England*, becauſe it is done according to the lawes of that land, though ſtrangers ſhall iudge otherwiſe of it. And in like manner the *Engliſh* nation cannot complaine of the torture which euill willers ſay, was vſed vpon theſe *Engliſh* Conſpirators in *Amboyna*, becauſe it was done according to the lawes of this *Gouernment*, and is not vnuſual in caſes of treaſon, neither with vs, nor (almoſt) any Nation in *Europe*. And for *England* it ſelfe, it is well knowne (and his moſt excellent *Maieſty* doth acknowledge by his owne *Princely* pen) that the *Rack*, & the *Manicles*, are

the onely tortures, that are exercised vpon *Traytors*, to force them to confesse, (*without concealement*) what they knowe to bee dangerous to the *State*.

And to say the truth, without taking parts, the *English* Conspirators being affronted with the vniforme and written confessions, of the 11. *Iaponians* (their Complices) which could conuince them sufficiently, according to the lawes, and finde them guilty of the same conspiracy, and consequently of death: if now, notwithstanding this, they had persisted in the stout deniall of the fact, were not this (to speake according to the manner in *England*) enough to iudge them dumb by contumacy, and so to esteeme them worthy of this sore punishment of pressing to death, as is aforesaid? But this torture of ours (if any in *Amboyna* were so tortured) is to bee iudged farre lesse than that pressing, where the malefactor doth suffer such extreame misery as cannot bee imagined, and which is not to bee lenifyed or eased at all, but ended by death. But to the sufficient satisfaction of my selfe, and your Worship, and all men, and not to speake according to the sentence, and conscience of others; I haue vsed all diligence to get into my hands the written *processe*, concerning the Conspirators in *Amboyna*; which I obtained authentically, and read carefully: and I finde that all that is by mee aboue said, is confirmed, to wit, That the *Iaponian* Complices were examined, and made their confessions as aforesaid, for three dayes, viz. the 23.24.25. of Feb. 1623. and that all this being done, and consummated before, then at last, is *Gabriel Towerson*, first with the rest of

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the *English* Complices, imprisoned, the said 25. of February, when their examination and confession began, and continued diuers dayes without ouer-hasting, till the 3. of March. And the said examinations and confessions being so finished, the *Netherlands Gouernour*, and *Councell*, deliberated whether the punishment might bee deferred to any long time, or referred to any other place; but it was so concluded, by ioynt consent of all, that the said punishment (there deserued) must bee executed in the same place, *for example*, and that it could not (in any wise) bee delaied without extreame danger, for reasons there related; and among others, because the *Ternatanes*, and *Indians* about *Amboyna*, had otherwise than they were wont, rebelled; neither could it bee fully knowne, what great confederacy these Conspirators had made with them, and others. And touching any extraordinary and cruell torture, I haue accuratly ouer-looked euery ones confession, but I finde not one word in any one, which maketh any mention of such torture, as is vniustly spoken of in *England*; nay, scarce finde any mention of that ordinary torture, which is in vse, saue only these words, in one act of the 25. of Feb. 1623. viz. *The Councell being gathered together, haue thought meete, that all the* English *should be presently examined one after another (as accordingly it was instantly done) and some of them*, before any torture; *others*; after a little (or rather a touch) of it, *confessed as followeh.* Vnto which, followeth presently the particular confession of each one, subscribed with his owne hand, as aforesaid. So that hence it is manifest, that no ex-

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traordinary torture was vſed, in ſuch manner as is giuen-out there, by thoſe that wiſh vs euill; nay, that thoſe *few* that felt any, were onely touched (not puniſhed) with ordinary torture.

And thus your *Worſhip* hath the vpright and impartiall truth of this buſineſſe, touching the whole paſſage as it proceeded, and the puniſhment, as it was inflicted; from which, ſome *Engliſh* were exempted by fauour, that the *Engliſh* goods ſhould not be loſt, according as order hath beene giuen to that end: And I finde that the ſentence was giuen the 9. of March, 1623. by a competent aſſembly of 14. Iudges, who (as it appeareth in the ſentence) in the doing thereof, did (*before*) earneſtly call vpon the name of the *Lord*, that hee would pleaſe to be preſident and predominant in euery one of their hearts, in this their *ſorrowfull aſſembly*; and that hee would inſpire them onely with that which might bee iudged to bee expedient and iuſt, &c. So that out of all that is aboue ſaid, nothing elſe can appeare, but that this buſineſſe was managed lawfully, and orderly, by men of honeſty and conſcience, againſt ſuch as had vndertaken againſt the *State*, againſt the wealth and aduantage of this *Eaſt-India Company*, the liues of their *Officers* there placed, againſt the eſtate and welfare of many, who had little deſerued, and as little expected, ſuch wickednes from their friendly confederates in the ſame ſociety of *Marchants*, there reſident with them.

And now (conſidering the premiſſes) I hope it ſhall bee farre from euery *Chriſtian* in any wiſe to protect or excuſe this wicked fact, but rather to

mourne and grieue (as we doe) for this conſpiracy, and for the euill the conſpirators haue ſo *deſeruedly* drawne vpon their owne heads; and to honour them, who in iuſtice haue puniſhed villany, according to the due merit thereof: for wee all know, that without *IVSTICE*, without reward of that which is *Good*, and puniſhment of that which is *Euill*, no ſociety of mankinde can conſiſt.

And of this information (which I ſend in loue, and honour, to your *Worſhip*, as vnto *a louer of Truth*, and *a hater of Treachery*) you may make ſuch vſe, as to you ſhall ſeeme good, in any place where you come, both for *refutation* of any thing already reported contrary thereunto, and for *preuention* of any further falſe rumors, or clamors; and finally, for *propagation* of that vndoubted truth, which *here* (to my beſt) I haue endeauoured to diſcouer. And if you ſhall meete with any thing of worth which can be truly auowed to bee contradictory vnto any thing I haue written, I deſire to vnderſtand it from you, and you to ſuſpend your *wiſe* and impartiall iudgement, till I haue cleared it vnto you. *TRVTH* remaineth euer the ſame. So I commend you to the *God of truth*, deſiring him to giue vs mindes, *Not to iudge according to outward appearance, but to iudge with a righteous iudgement.*

From my Lodging, July 23. 1624.